Restriction on viewers on TV after CAS

1338. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the introduction of CAS related cable TV, the viewer will still have the freedom to view TV with the help of a normal antenna; if so, the number of channels that would be available to him in that case;

(b) whether the CAS related cable arrangement restricts a viewer's right to have a free flow of information at least from State run channels; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS) will not affect availability through normal antenna of all T.V. channels transmitted terrestrially by Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Instead CAS has provided the consumers a choice of channels and pay for them only. Further as per the notifications issued under Section 8 of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 every cable operator is to retransmit the DD channels namely DD Rajya Sabha. DD Urdu, DD National, DD News, DD Bharati, DD Sports, Gyan Darshan and Lok Sabha TV channel in their network. In addition to these channels; the cable operator has also to carry one regional DD channel of the State in which the cable operator is providing his cable network services.

Need to install VLPT in Ransar, H.P.

.1339. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had approved a plan for installation at HPT in Amritsar for improvement at coverage of Doordarshan programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will fulfill the long pending demand of people of Ransar valley in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh for installation of VLPT to increase the coverage of Doordarshan programmes as this area is hilly and rural;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it may be installed; and

(e) if not, why Government is ignoring the sentiments of the people of Ransar valley for not installing the VLPT for seeing the Doordarshan programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The 10 kW HPT at Amritsar was installed in September, 1973. Scheme for upgradation of this HPT to a 20 kW HPT and establishment of a DD2 HPT at Amritsar with 300 M tower at new site was approved in October 1999 (as part of J&K Special Plan) for expansion of DD coverage in the border areas of Punjab.

(c) to (e) The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission alongwith rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through free to air DTH service of Doordarshan, which was launched in December, 04. It is possible to receive DTH signals

anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands), including Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh, with the help of small sized dish receiver units. New transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now not envisaged to be set up.

Linking Rajkot Doordarshan with satellite

1340. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when the Rajkot Doordarshan will be linked up with satellite to allow live telecast of State-wise programmes,

(b) what is the proposal to broadcast Regional News for Saurashtra through All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra of Rajkot; and

(c) whether Government has prepared any proposal to establish F.M. Radio and expand Vividh Bharati Saurashtra and Kutch Region?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that at present there is no scheme to link Doordarshan Kendra, Rajkot with the various transmitters in Gujarat which are linked to Doordarshan Kendras, Delhi and Ahmedabad through satellite for relay of National and Regional service programmes respectively.

(b) Setting up of one new Regional News Unit at All India Radio, Rajkot for Saurashtra Region in Gujarat is a part of the draft Eleventh Plan of AIR.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned, at present there is no such proposal to start Regional news for Saurashtra through Doordarshan Kendra, Rajkot.

(c) The following FM Stations of AIR are functional in Gujarat:

(i)	Ahmedabad	10 KV FM (Vividh Bharati)
(ii)	Godhra	6 KW FM
(iii)	Rajkot	10 KW FM (Vividh Bharati)
(iv)	Surat	6 KW FM (Vividh Bharati)
(v)	Vadodra	10 KW FM (Exclusive Vividh Bharati)

Replacement of 6 KW FM transmitter by 10 KW FM transmitter at Surat and 10 KW FM transmitter with receiving and play back facilities at Junagarh, schemes of Tenth Plan, are part of expansion and improvement of FM signals. 20 KW FM transmitter on TV Tower at Bhuj and 10 KW FM transmitter on TV Tower at Radhanpur is a part of draft Eleventh Plan.

Low viewership/listenership of DD/AIR

1341. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of viewers/listeners of Doordarshan and AIR specifically All India Radio, is very less when compared to the large network of DD and AIR Stations and the huge amount of public money spent on them;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the steps taken during the period to increase the viewership/listenership of Doordarshan and AIR;